Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)

From: Wolff, Patricia (Mathematics)
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2004 10:29 AM
To: Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)
Subject: RE: Snails Pace

How right you are, Bess. You do approach things differently (thank God) and you have different issues. Thank you for pointing that out so clearly; there is a significant difference in what you both seek. You want something tangible and Pat wants a symbolic victory more than tangible ones (or so it would appear by her actions.)

I give you credit many times over for your healthy head and heart. I, like Anne, think a great deal of you as an individual. It is hard at times to get on top of emotions in life. I would like a nickel for every time I have told myself over the years "you are thinking with your emotions and not your head."

Pat Wolff
Mathematics Secretary
& CSEA President
x2931

-----Original Message-----
From: Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2004 9:19 AM
To: Wolff, Patricia (Mathematics)
Subject: RE: Snails Pace

What Pat is doing is DIFFERENT than what I am pursuing. I want Domestic Partner benefits, Pat wants that baby and the bathwater, in other words, she wants her relationship seen as a marriage. That may happen, but not in the near future, maybe 5 to 10 years from now. What I am seeking is something we should have had a long time ago and is an attainable goal because of our non-discrimination policy. I know I'm not telling you something you don't already know, but I worry that Pat's attitude may reflect badly on our proposal – but I would never hold that against Pat, as anyone has the right to fight for what they believe in – we just approach things differently.

-----Original Message-----
From: Wolff, Patricia (Mathematics)
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2004 9:10 AM
To: Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)
Subject: RE: Snails Pace

It would be cause for celebration and a shock for many of us! I have a copy of the letter sent to her. It was brief. It stood behind the contract and the County not allowing coverage, as well as the fact that NYS does not recognize Civil Unions. Debbie Lee has a copy of the letter and did not see it as a strong negative to the cause.

Pat Wolff
Mathematics Secretary
& CSEA President
x2931

-----Original Message-----
From: Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2004 9:06 AM
To: Wolff, Patricia (Mathematics)
Subject: RE: Snails Pace

No, she said she would, but I haven't heard a thing from her. I'm not surprised the FA contract is being drawn out, nothing happens fast around here, wouldn't it be ironic if our contract was approved before theirs?

-----Original Message-----
From: Wolff, Patricia (Mathematics)
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2004 9:02 AM
To: Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)
Subject: Snails Pace

Hi Bess:

I hear things are not moving along smoothly on the FA contract and expect you are receiving the same information. It seems that contract issues have been going on for the *l o n g e s t* time. We should have some idea of where things stand fairly soon.

Has Pat let you know of the response she received from Sherry?

Pat Wolff
Mathematics Secretary
& CSEA President
x2931

Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)

From: Tuttle, Kendra (Interdisciplinary Programs)
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2005 11:09 AM
To: Horwath, Edie (Student Services Center - DCC); Battles, Carol (ETS: Mail Services); Fegan, Colette (Technical Education); Watts, Bess (ETS: Library); Lepore, Gale Ann (Academic Support Services); Haines, John (Building Services); McKechney, Roberta (ETS: Library)
Cc: Wolff, Patricia (Mathematics); Clark, Beverly (Student Services Office)
Subject: RE: Local Elections

Edie,
Unfortunately, Election Committees are not allowed to put together any information on candidates as it is considered "campaigning." So, unless an individual does, there is nothing we can do. Elections are something that CSEA definitely needs to work on.
Kendra

From: Horwath, Edie (Student Services Center - DCC)
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2005 10:55 AM
To: Tuttle, Kendra (Interdisciplinary Programs); Battles, Carol (ETS: Mail Services); Fegan, Colette (Technical Education); Watts, Bess (ETS: Library); Lepore, Gale Ann (Academic Support Services); Haines, John (Building Services); McKechney, Roberta (ETS: Library)
Cc: Wolff, Patricia (Mathematics); Clark, Beverly (Student Services Office)
Subject: RE: Local Elections

Does anyone know any of these people we are voting for? I don't know anyone except Chris Zaffuto. It would be nice if they would include a little bio of each candidate.

Edie Horwath
Registration/Financial Services
MCC, Damon City Campus
228 E. Main St.
Rochester, N.Y. 14604
585.262.1678

From: Tuttle, Kendra (Interdisciplinary Programs)
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2005 10:00 AM
To: Battles, Carol (ETS: Mail Services); Fegan, Colette (Technical Education); Horwath, Edie (Student Services Center - DCC); Watts, Bess (ETS: Library); Lepore, Gale Ann (Academic Support Services); Haines, John (Building Services); McKechney, Roberta (ETS: Library)
Cc: Wolff, Patricia (Mathematics); Clark, Beverly (Student Services Office)
Subject: RE: Local Elections

Write-in votes (candidates) are not allowed.

Thanks for asking the question!

From: Battles, Carol (ETS: Mail Services)
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2005 9:17 AM
To: Tuttle, Kendra (Interdisciplinary Programs); Fegan, Colette (Technical Education); Horwath, Edie (Student Services Center - DCC); Watts, Bess (ETS: Library); Lepore, Gale Ann (Academic Support Services); Haines, John (Building

January 7, 2007

President Wayne Zyra
Monroe County Legislature
39 West Main Street
Rochester NY 14614

Dear President Zyra:

We are writing as the Social Action for Marriage Equality coalition (S.A.M.E.), a group of Monroe County individuals and organizations who are working to achieve marriage equality for all New Yorkers, including ending the ban against marriage for loving same-sex couples here in New York. We request that the Monroe County Legislature protect the families of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people by establishing domestic partner benefits for Monroe County Employees and by passing a resolution which calls on Monroe County's state legislative delegation to support marriage equality for same-sex couples. Monroe County has a long history of fostering social justice and equity for all its citizens, so we are confident in your positive response to this "call to action".

The legislature should make full domestic partner benefits available for all Monroe County employees in order to provide benefit equity between couples who can legally marry and those who cannot or choose not to marry, regardless of sexual orientation. The City of Rochester, the State of New York and the County of Albany are among the many New York State government bodies that offer domestic partner benefits. The majority of Fortune 500 Companies also offer these benefits, as a cost-effective way to compete for talented employees. These entities view domestic partner benefits as a matter of providing equal pay for equal work.

We also ask the Legislature to use the power of its moral authority to end overt institutionalized discrimination against same-sex couples. We are asking the Legislature as a body to publicly support state legislation that guarantees marriage equality for same-sex couples. We request you submit a written resolution to the New York State Assembly, Senate and the Governor's Office for the passage of marriage equality legislation based on the equity of civil rights for all citizens of the state.

Gay and lesbian couples suffer serious consequences from discrimination. Denied the common legal, financial and social protections that civil marriage provides, same-sex couples find their basic family security needs in jeopardy. Recently a lesbian couple in Rochester suffered the consequences of the lack of legal protections for their relationship of 29 years. When Lee developed cancer, her partner Lori was not entitled to sick time or family leave to care for her and had to take unpaid time, depleting their savings. When Lee died, Lori was not entitled to bereavement time from her employer. As Lori was not entitled to Lee's pension or Social Security Survivor's benefits because they had not been able to marry legally, Lori had to move out of their home of many years. After working and saving together with Lee for 29 years, Lori now faces financial struggle for the rest of her life. There are 1500 protections and benefits given by government to other families through marriage. Same-sex couples like Lee and Lori need those securities also.

We can amply demonstrate how LGBT families are harmed by not having access to marriage, domestic partner benefits, or the other protections and responsibilities government makes available to all other families. We would be eager to speak with you personally and provide stories of families here in Monroe County affected by these issues. These are literally life and death matters, so there is a real urgency to our request. We will be contacting your office within the next few weeks to hear your thoughts about next steps in the process, including a timeline in which we can anticipate action on these two issues. Please also feel free to contact us in the meantime through our Coordinators Anne Tischer, Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church (585)426-0862 and Jon Greenbaum, Metro Justice metroj@frontiernet.net, with questions or feedback.

We thank you in advance for your concern for all the families of Monroe County, including those headed by same-sex couples.

Sincerely,

Social Action for Marriage Equality (S.A.M.E) members and supporters:

Metro Justice

Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church

Anne T. Tischer

Maria Monacelli

Donna Tyler

Karen M. Lasky

J. Michael Rogers

William J. Van Tassell

Amanda Robinson

Deborah A. Mohr

Albert B. Balt

Lee Camelio

Christopher M. Stewart

Paul L. Johnstone

Roza Eisenman

Ray Simons

Cynthia Allen

Lu Johnson

Susan Tyson

Eugene Ver

Jon Greenbaum

Rev. James F. Mulcahy

Bess Watts

Terry Keister

Sherri Munger

Terry L. Kelly

Vernon L. West

Susan Wasson

Patrick Fisher

Rebecca J. Gates

Jackie Akins

Rasheida Bennett

Linda Herman

Sandra J. Restieri

Renee Eberling

Juanita Saspey

Kerry J. Cater

Joan E. Tischer

Karen McCandlish

Jessica Akers

Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)

From: Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2007 3:00 PM
To: Jim Valpone (unit7400@rochester.rr.com)
Cc: Flo Tripi (tripi@cseainc.org)
Subject: Legislature letter to Zyra 1-7-07
Attachments: Legislature letter to Zyra 1-7-07.doc

Here is the original proposal to President Zyra that was referred to in the previous e-mail. We continue to collect signatures supporting these initiatives. The one thing about being involved in the political process is that you forget who you have and have not given information too. Anne and I will bring you everything you need to know on Wednesday so you can get up to speed on our process. Obviously we are not lobbyists or experts in Union negotiations, so we hope you will forgive our clumsiness; what we do have is passion in social justice matters.

We know that we are approaching this from an unorthodox way, but it is our hope that if the county legislature and County Executive Maggie Brooks is on board than the county administration will follow.

Again, I am sorry for the confusion.

Sincerely,

Bess

EMAIL TO MCC Pres FLYNN Re: DP

Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)

From: Flynn, Tom (President's Office)
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2007 3:08 PM
To: Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)
Subject: RE: Monroe County Legislature - FYI

Bess,

Thank you for keeping me advised.

T

Thomas Flynn
President
Monroe Community College
Rochester, N.Y. 14623
tflynn@monroecc.edu
585-292-2100

From: Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2007 1:19 PM
To: Flynn, Tom (President's Office)
Cc: Cecero, Diane (President's Office)
Subject: Monroe County Legislature - FYI

Dear President Flynn,

Diane Cecero suggested that I contact you to inform you of my recent activities with the Monroe County Legislature. My partner Anne and I are very involved in social justice issues concerning lesbian and gay individuals. One of those issues is advocating for domestic partner benefits for Monroe County employees. We have been speaking and meeting with various individuals within the legislature for the last 5-6 months. Anne has personally met with President Zyra about this issue and he noted that he was on the MCC Board of Trustees when Domestic Partner benefits were approved for MCC.

Anne and I have another appointment with President Zyra, Majority Leader Bill Smith and Legislator Dobson this Monday to continue our dialogue. I am proud of MCC's role in advocating for equality in the workplace by offering domestic partner benefits. Every time Anne and I attend the legislature meetings or meet with politicians we mention MCC in a positive light. I love being an employee here and am proud of the work we do.

Thank you for all of your support.

Sincerely,

Bess Watts
Interlibrary Loan
LeRoy V Good Library
Monroe Community College
1000 East Henrietta
Rochester NY 14623

(585) 292-2318
bwatts@monroecc.edu

Email to MCC Pres Flynn Re: DP

Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)

From: Flynn, Tom (President's Office)
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2007 3:08 PM
To: Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)
Subject: RE: Monroe County Legislature - FYI

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T

Thomas Flynn
President
Monroe Community College
Rochester, N.Y. 14623
tflynn@monroecc.edu
585-292-2100

From: Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2007 1:19 PM
To: Flynn, Tom (President's Office)
Cc: Cecero, Diane (President's Office)
Subject: Monroe County Legislature - FYI

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Thank you for all of your support.

Sincerely,

Bess Watts
Interlibrary Loan
LeRoy V Good Library
Monroe Community College
1000 East Henrietta
Rochester NY 14623

(585) 292-2318
bwatts@monroecc.edu

CSEA Member Re: DP

Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)

From: Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2007 11:18 AM
To: NRandazza@monroecounty.gov
Cc: Tischer, Anne
Subject: RE:

Hi Nina,

Thanks for your very timely e-mail. A group of us have been speaking and advocating for DP benefits at the Monroe County Legislation meeting the 2nd Tuesday of every month. We have also met with key Republicans who are willing to support this initiative.

Right now it is crucial that we get people who are willing to speak for 2 minutes who work for the county and are directly affected by not having DP Benefits, particularly health insurance. We are pushing this as a civil rights issue and not something that is up for negotiation. All unmarried couples, rather straight or gay, are welcome to speak on this issue as well as friends who are supportive. Our take is that domestic partner benefits is a matter of equity in the workplace and not about changing personal values. Anne (my partner) and I have spoke often and the legislators know us by name, but the more people from various backgrounds that speak up will add tremendous weight to our arguments.

What we need from Monroe County employees:

1. People who are willing to speak at the legislator.
2. If not willing to speak, to write a letter that will be read on their behalf
3. Educate people around them on what it means to NOT have equality in the workplace

These are only a few of the things that people can do – mostly to be vocal and visible. The next leg meeting is next Tuesday, April 10th at 6:00 PM – Anne and I are more than willing to help and guide any one that is interested in this topic. Would you be willing to speak at the Legislation meeting on April 10th? You can certainly pass this information along to anyone that is interested.

Thank you for contacting me; I have included my partner in this e-mail so we don't have to duplicate efforts. ☺

Sincerely,

Bess Watts & Anne Tischer
3 Rossmore St
Rochester NY 14606
585-292-2318 (Bess – work)
585-426-0862 (Home)

P.S. Please thank Cris for me for passing this information on to you.

From: NRandazza@monroecounty.gov [mailto:NRandazza@monroecounty.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2007 10:43 AM
To: Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)
Subject:

Hi Bess,
Cris approached me regarding helping out w/ domestic partnership rights @ Monroe County.
I am interested in helping out. I do many home visits and am on the road alot.
Email is a good way to get ahold of me if it isn't urgent.

There is another person on this floor (or 2) who is very interested also. Let me know if you need any more folks.
Nina

Nina Randazza, BSN
Service Coordinator
Monroe County Early Intervention Program
ph. 585.753.5238
fax 753.5259

----- Forwarded by Nina Randazza/HD/Monroe on 04/03/07 11:55 AM -----

Cris Zaffuto/HD/Monroe

04/03/07 11:48 AM

To Nina Randazza/HD/Monroe@Monroe
cc
Subject Name

The person is:

Bess Watts
3 Rossmore St.
Home: 426-0862
Bus: 292-2318
Email: Bwatts@monrecc.edu

Tell her I gave you her name and numbers. Thanks, Cris

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including attachments.

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including attachments.

Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)

From: Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)
Sent: Wednesday, June 06, 2007 9:52 AM
To: paw@aflcio.org; stelep@aflcio.org
Subject: Rochester Pride at Work Chapter - how to begin?

Hello,

How can I begin the process of forming a local Pride at Work chapter in the Rochester, New York, area?

I am a member, and on the executive board, of CSEA Local 828, Unit 7402, out of Rochester, Monroe County, New York, the city with the second-highest GLBT population in New York State. As a lesbian and strong advocate for equality in the workplace, I have been extremely frustrated with the lack of visibility and advocacy on behalf of GLBT employees in Monroe County, particularly by Unit 7400, which has over 2500 CSEA members who work for Monroe County.

New York State bans discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in employment and other areas in the Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act. Our union leaders, however, have demonstrated an unwillingness to fight for GLBT rights at the bargaining table at the local level because, in their words, there are more pressing matters. In addition, there are few educational opportunities related to gay and lesbian issues in the workplace for Monroe County employees, which would be unacceptable for any other minority group. This situation demonstrates a contradiction of CSEA policy, which reads "an injury to one is an injury to all." Gay and lesbian families are injured on a daily basis by not having the means to protect their families with the benefits that are afforded others.

How can CSEA collectively come out strongly on behalf of all its employees? I believe that forming a Pride at Work affiliation for Local 828 in the Rochester area would help educate CSEA members on the need for full inclusion and give GLBT members a place at the table in contract negotiations, just as Local 828 CLUW and CBTU constituency groups already do for women and African-American members.

Although I am fortunate to have domestic partner benefits where I work, I know several Monroe County employees who suffer the discrimination of not being represented equally and feel excluded in the workplace. For these employees, CSEA's lack of support makes it difficult for them to come out and stand up because they fear rejection or isolation.

Can you point me in the right direction?

Sincerely,

Bess Watts
CSEA Unit 7402, Local 828
AFSCME, AFL-CIO
3 Rossmore Street
Rochester NY 14606
(585) 292-2318
bwatts@monroecc.edu

Carl Sandburg was once asked what he thought was the ugliest word in the English language. He thought for a minute and replied, "Exclusion."

Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)

From: Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2007 2:39 PM
To: Ove Overmyer
Cc: Kris Hinesley
Subject: RE: Discussion panel last night

I wish I could say that the place was filled to the brim with people advocating for equality in their workplace, but that was not to be. There were a total of 11 people, and two of them were very vocal and negative towards the county in general. While we did highlight what we have been doing and where we want to go, told our personal stories and emphasized the positives, the vocal ones continued to be disruptive and antagonistic. There was only one CSEA person (besides myself) and she read about the meeting in the Empty Closet and she signed up to help with PAW, I really liked her. I e-mailed Jim Valpone and Chris the flyers, but apparently nothing was posted or relayed to CSEA county employees as far as I know. I really am at my wits end and apparently have too much of an expectation from our leaders in the labor movement. The Federation of Social Workers has been extremely supportive, as there were 3 straight people present from their diversity council as well as their president, John Vasco, and they provided the location.

Domestic partner benefits is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the County and GLBT issues – Anne and I are beginning to wonder if we are wasting our time. I am going to see how many people I can get that will be committed to a Pride at Work chapter before I commit to anything. I don't want to lay the groundwork and start a chapter when interest appears to be victim hood. However, they work under extreme conditions, get little support (whether gay or straight) and no respect from administration, a very abusive environment – how do you even begin in situations as this? I'm still licking my wounds – so right now I am probably not the best judge.

I am including Kris in this e-mail as I told her I would give her a summary about yesterday. (Hi Kris)

Anne and I are attending the workshop this evening, so I hope that gives us the boost that I seem to need.

Glad to hear that the march went well, though I don't quite understand what the sign "Honk! If Hate is Overrated" means? Maybe it's me and my mood.

Bess

From: Ove Overmyer [mailto:oveovermyer@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2007 11:59 AM
To: Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)
Subject: RE: rally at Monore & Goodman

Yes...you can say there is an element of our community that still has the flavor of militancy in their blood. Take a look at this video:

http://rochesterhomepage.net/content/fulltext/?cid=11402

How did everything go?

-Ove

"Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)" <bwatts@monroecc.edu> wrote:

> Sorry Ove, just got your e-mail this morning. No camera or pictures taken last night.
>
> How did the rally go? I hope it was successful.
>
> Bess

From: Ove Overmyer [mailto:oveovermyer@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 26, 2007 3:46 PM
To: Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)
Subject: rally at Monore & Goodman

Bess: Susan Jordan gave me the assignment to cover the rally in 45 minutes for the EC. She considers this hard news. If I don't get to the panel discussion on Flanders Rd, can you make sure someone takes photos if a camera is there? I'll call you later on this. Sorry about not being on time.

-Ove
423.9862
oveovermyer@yahoo.com

Choose the right car based on your needs. Check out Yahoo! Autos new Car Finder tool.

Building a website is a piece of cake.
Yahoo! Small Business gives you all the tools to get online.

Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)

From: Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2007 1:31 PM
To: Jim Valpone (unit7400@rochester.rr.com)
Cc: Flo Tripi (tripi@cseainc.org)
Subject: SAME coalition proposal for Domestic Partner benefts

Dear Jim,

Thanks for taking the time to speak with me by phone about the effort to get Domestic Partner benefits / health insurance for all Monroe County employees. Being new at political action, we have made some mistakes - notably by not getting with you sooner in the process. Because Unions have traditionally led the way with civil rights and equity issues, we made assumptions about your support without doing you the courtesy of face to face contact. We apologize. And we would have benefited from your insights. Obviously we've focused exclusively on the education of County Legislators without realizing there is a need for education of union members also...

You said that some members voiced opposition to domestic partner benefits. Diversity education concerning the issues faced by same-sex couples and families is available from organizations like Pride in Our Union who can provide education materials and speakers. We can set that up. People need to understand that this is a matter of equity and fairness in the workplace and not about personal values. New York State CSEA Local 1000 has had domestic partner benefits since 1995. The City of Rochester, the Rochester City School District, Kodak, Xerox, the Town of Brighton , Monroe Community College, and hundreds more local institutions have domestic partner benefits. New York State law prohibits employment discrimination based on sexual orientation and similar legislation is expected to pass at the Federal level this year. Other equity legislation is being advanced in Albany. Equity is coming.

But Jim, there are real people who are in need of health insurance now for their families. ALL Monroe County employees, regardless of sexual orientation, need to have domestic partner benefits available to them, at least for health insurance. That is why we are asking you to help us. Can you please provide a letter from CSEA Local 828 that we can present to Wayne Zyra stating that your union supports Domestic Partner benefits for Monroe County employees? Then we can pressure the County to take the next step.

sample:

" This letter is a declaration of intent to support the proposal made by the Social Action for Marriage Equality community coalition that the Monroe County Legislature provide access to Domestic Partner benefits to County employees, regardless of sexual orientation. As union representatives for the working families employed by Monroe County, we support the development of a memorandum of agreement to provide domestic partner benefits to all committed couples. We believe this to be a matter of equitable compensation as well as a validation of the equal worth of all employees. If Monroe County is willing to address implementation of a Domestic Partner benefit policy, we will enthusiastically offer a draft memorandum for their consideration. "

We would like to present this letter as soon as possible to Mr Zyra and friends and get a response from them before the next legislature meeting in March. I would be happy to pick it up or you could mail it to me at 3 Rossmore Street, Rochester NY 14606. John Vasco of the Federation of Social Workers has said he will send a letter and the Deputies Unions are being approached. We have a sample Memorandum of Agreement that was used elsewhere to get Domestic Partner health insurance benefits which I will send you a copy of and some local statistics. We really need your help to make this happen and appreciate your feedback...

Thanks again,

Bess Watts
3 Rossmore St
Rochester NY 14606
(585) 426-0862

(585) 292-2318
besswhat@gmail.com – home
bwatts@monroecc.edu - work

Carl Sandburg was once asked what he thought was the ugliest word in the English language. He thought for a minute and replied, "Exclusion."

Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)

From: DeFelice, Robert (English-Philosophy)
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2008 10:39 AM
To: Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)
Cc: Cecero, Diane (President's Office); Otero, Emeterio (Executive Dean - DCC)
Subject: RE: Democrat and Chroninicle Speaking Out piece

You should be very proud of yourself, Bess. As someone who lives in Monroe County and has been with his gay partner for very nearly twenty-five years, your voice spoke for me and many others, too. Gay couples contribute mightily to our community and deserve to be treated well in the workplace. I, along with many others, am "unmarried" but that should not be an excuse for less than equal treatment.

Best,
Bob

From: Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2008 10:27 AM
To: Otero, Emeterio (Executive Dean - DCC); Cecero, Diane (President's Office); MCC: Diversity Council
Subject: RE: Democrat and Chroninicle Speaking Out piece

I'm blushing, thank you for your support. When you have a strong foundation to stand on, it's easy speaking out for gay and lesbian issues, and this council allows me to do just that without fear.

Bess

From: Otero, Emeterio (Executive Dean - DCC)
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2008 10:21 AM
To: Cecero, Diane (President's Office); MCC: Diversity Council
Subject: RE: Democrat and Chroninicle Speaking Out piece

I concur with our CDO. I felt even more proud of us this morning when I saw the editorial.

Great job Bess!

Emeterio M. Otero, Ph.D
Executive Dean
Monroe Community College
Damon City Campus
228 E. Main St.
Rochester, NY 14604
Office: 585-262-1610
Fax: 585-262-1615

The illiterate of the twenty-first century will be those people who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn - *Alvin Tofler*

From: Cecero, Diane (President's Office)
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2008 9:55 AM
To: MCC: Diversity Council
Subject: Democrat and Chroninicle Speaking Out piece

We all need to support Bess as she takes this courageous stand. Way to go Bess.

Diane

From: Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 3:06 PM
To: Cecero, Diane (President's Office)
Subject: Final Speaking Out.doc

FYI - here is the speaking out piece that was submitted.

Bess

Gmail by Google

Bess Watts <besswhat@gmail.com>

you as the subject of my final paper

4 messages

Linda H Donahue <lhd4@cornell.edu> Wed, May 2, 2012 at 3:10 PM
To: Bess Watts <besswhat@gmail.com>

Hey Sister –

I thought you'd be amused by the fact that I've chosen to write about you for my Organizational Behavior final paper about effective leaders. I'm pasting in that part of the paper below so you can see what a fan of yours I am ☺

Linda

An example of a leader who *successfully* "got things done" is based in Rochester. Several years ago, a public sector union member who is gay, BW, recognized that hers was just one of many unions that ignored issues affecting Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, and Transgender (LGBT) workers. Her union contract did not provide for Domestic Partner benefits. As a result, BW had to use vacation time when her partner had major surgery; had they been a married couple, she would have been able to use sick leave. When her partner's mother died, BW had to again use vacation time; bereavement leave was possible only for married couples. Her lone voice was unable to persuade her union that this inequality was something that should be addressed contractually. It is easy to be dismissed when no one is standing behind you, and because it is so risky to come out of the closet, BW found herself standing alone even though she knew other gay union members were being similarly ignored. She embarked on a goal to make the local labor movement more welcoming to LGBT union members and more receptive to addressing issues that affect this population of workers.

BW learned that the AFL-CIO has a constituency group for LGBT union members called Pride at Work; she resolved to form a Rochester chapter. Recognizing that she would need support from local labor unions, BW started taking classes in the Cornell ILR Labor Studies Program in order to learn more about the labor movement. According to her, one of the most important things to come out of her Labor Studies education was the notion that in order to gain support from others, it behooves an activist to first actively support others' causes.

Taking that advice to heart, BW was seen on every union picket line, at every progressive rally, and on every phone bank the labor movement held. She faithfully attended Labor Council meetings every month and was elected President of her own local union. As a delegate to the Labor Council she introduced herself as a lesbian in an open and light-hearted manner ("In case you wondered, this is what a lesbian looks like. Well, not all lesbians, just this one"). Once she was well-recognized and established as a union activist, she made the announcement that a chapter of Pride at Work was being formed and she encouraged the other delegates to let their members know.

In short order BW had enough interested union members that she could petition the national Pride at Work organization for a local charter, which she secured. She proudly announced this accomplishment at a Labor Council meeting and was received with enthusiastic applause. As the President of a chapter of an AFL-CIO constituency group, BW now had a seat on the Labor Council's Executive Board. The Pride at Work chapter was on the agenda of every Council meeting; they had a float in the Labor Day Parade and won an award.

BW had brought LGBT union members to the union table without causing any dissent. So far, so good.

In 2010, the issue of marriage equality (ME) came to prominence. Pride at Work strongly endorsed this as a legislative priority and worked at both the national and local levels to advance the cause. Behind the scenes, BW spoke with local labor leaders to assess their attitudes about ME and found much support. Withholding support, however, were representatives of the building trades. Their leadership claimed that marriage equality was not a union issue and they would not take a position on it. In all likelihood, the construction trades' leaders saw no benefit, and considerable risk, in bringing a "gay-friendly" issue before their gun-toting members. Recognizing that she had come upon an intransigent obstacle, BW did not attempt to push the issue with the building trades and turned instead to the Labor Council president for encouragement. In so doing, she was able to retain the coalition mindset without "feeding the Trojan Horse."[1]

In 2011 the Labor Council held a press conference announcing their endorsement of a bill that would legalize marriage among same sex couples. Speaking at that press conference were the presidents of the Rochester Central Labor Council, the Firefighters, the Police Locust Club, the United Auto Workers, and several other local and regional unions. It was quite an accomplishment to have traditional brotherhoods like Police and Fire speaking in favor of a bill to award equal rights to the LGBT community.

In the meantime, BW and her wife (they had married in Canada) had developed quite a reputation as event sign-makers. At every union and progressive rally their colorful signs could be seen demanding

attention from passers-by: "Protect Middle Class Workers," "Let Them Eat Cake!," "We Are the 99%" and so forth. Their signs have accompanied union members to Washington DC, Albany, and every picketed workplace in Monroe and Wayne Counties – even when the pickets were on behalf of the building trades. Thus, BW proved herself the kind of leader who is carefully "not obsessing over the opposition."[2]

Marriage Equality for New Yorkers has been achieved, but BW and the Pride at Work chapter have not lost momentum; the passage of this law was not the goal of BW or of Pride at Work. The goal was raising the consciousness of the labor movement concerning LGBT workers' issues. It's a goal without an end-date, much as there is no end date for raising unions' awareness of women's, Latinos', or Black workers' issues. BW's leadership continues to "motivate, focus, and socialize individuals so they can feel like they're part of a group."[3]

In the 1960s, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America (ACWA) released a film entitled *The Inheritance* about the historic struggles in the labor movement. A featured song had a line about justice that seems pertinent: "You have to work for it, fight for it, day and night for it. And every generation has to win it again." So it is in the labor movement, so it is with Getting and Keeping Them on Your Side. Leaders can never really claim victory if the overarching goal is not simply project-driven but driven by motives related to social issues such as justice, fairness, equality. As conditions in society change, laws, legislators and policymakers change, and people's motives for their behavior change, the leadership of unions and other activist organizations must constantly reassess structural, performance, cultural and political momentum. What resources are required vs. desired; what adjustments should be made; how can an activist culture be sustained; what is the nature of coalition members' and allies' support? These topics, outlined in Keep Them on Your Side, are too frequently overlooked by leaders distracted by day-to-day tasks. BW, however, has so far shown a strong propensity for recognizing the big picture, building a strong foundation, constantly shoring up support, recognizing others' contributions, and leading Pride at Work toward the goal of being a force in the labor movement and in the community. Her latest venture? Working with the Buffalo labor and LGBT communities to start a Western New York chapter of Pride at Work.

Failure is Impossible.

---

[1] p. 191, Bacharach, Keep Them on Your Side. Platinum Press, 2006.

[2] P. 205 Bacharach, Keep Them on Your Side. Platinum Press, 2006.

[3] P. 45 Ibid

Gmail by Google

Bess Watts <besswhat@gmail.com>

Bess at work...

1 message

Anne Tischer <atischer@frontiernet.net> Tue, Jun 24, 2008 at 6:23 PM
To: Jim Mulcahy <mulcahyj@citlink.net>
Cc: Terry Kelly <tkelly04@rochester.rr.com>, Anne Tischer <atischer@frontiernet.net>, Bess Watts <besswhat@gmail.com>, Bud Minard <budminard@aol.com>, Deb Mohr <dmohr@frontiernet.net>, Deborah_Krusemark <deborah.krusemark@kodak.com>, dee dee corcimiglia <facpainting@frontiernet.net>, "Dr. Meredith Reiniger" <MeredithElizabethReiniger@frontiernet.net>, Ed Roselene <earjr@frontiernet.net>, JandB178@aol.com, Karen Lasky <reneeberlli2002@frontiernet.net>, Linda Herman <Herman.linda@yahoo.com>, Lu Johnson <Ljohnson@albionk12.org>, Lynne Kasiske <lkasiske@rochester.rr.com>, Mary Ellen Johnson <maryenkrism@aol.com>, Paul Johnstone <dramaboy@citlink.net>, Rebecca Gates <rgates@brockport.edu>, Richard Esse <rpesmf1@aol.com>, Rodney Graham <Rgg24U2000@yahoo.com>, Roza Eisenman <catlady14618@yahoo.com>, Sherri Munger <smteaches@frontiernet.net>, Steve Johnson <sajroc@rochester.rr.com>, Sue Goodrich <neptunesc@yahoo.com>, Sue Wasson <bustingin@yahoo.com>, Reggie Wright <rrwright08@yahoo.com>, Donna Tyler <dmt4961@frontiernet.net>

Hi all!

Remember I told you that Bess at a big union meeting had publicly challenged Sen. Bruno to let the Family Access Bill go to the Senate floor for a vote? Because the Republicans were courting the union presidents, Sen. Bruno turned and told his aide to "just move it".... Guess what...they finally passed it today! After 20 years!

...check it out

http://www.senate.state.ny.us/pressreleases.nsf/2e0e86fa9105ed5a85256ec30061c0be/0d04faf2d3676e6c8525747200554d07?OpenDocument

Love Anne

Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)

From: Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2008 3:04 PM
To: Janet Chaize
Subject: RE: Action Alert! Fair Access to Family Court

Dear Janet,

Please - pass this exchange to anyone that can get this long overdue bill passed! And thank YOU for providing all the information I needed to speak somewhat intelligently about this very important issue.

When I was in the elevator Senator Nozzolio asked if I knew Carly and I said I didn't, he also said he was very supportive of the bill and apparently Carly convinced him to co-sponsor, so I'm pleased that you forwarded this to her.

Have a great weekend – hopefully next week we will see some action on the floor!

Bess

From: Janet Chaize [mailto:JanetC@abwrochester.org]
Sent: Fri 5/23/2008 2:46 PM
To: Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)
Subject: RE: Action Alert! Fair Access to Family Court

Dear Bess,

Thank you so much!

I have chills all over!

I have passed your message on to Cathy and Carly, chair of SAFER!

May I pass it on to Sherri Salvione of New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence?

Janet Chaize, MS, LMHC, Transitional Support Services Program Coordinator

Alternatives for Battered Women, P.O. Box 39601, Rochester, NY 14604

585-232-5200, Ext. 232, janetc@abwrochester.org

From: Watts, Bess (ETS: Library) [mailto:bwatts@monroecc.edu]
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2008 3:27 PM

To: Janet Chaize
Subject: RE: Action Alert! Fair Access to Family Court

Janet,

I just left you a voice mail, however, wanted to follow up with an e-mail. I had a meeting/roundtable with Union leaders as well as Senator Bruno, Senator Robach and others and spoke to Mr Bruno about bringing the Family Access bill to the senate floor. He did turn to his aide and said to 'move it', which I interpreted as they may bring it to the floor soon. I wanted to pass this information along - I also met with him again after the meeting (and posed for a picture) and reiterated the need for this bill to pass after 20 years! I hope I was able to help in some small way.

Could you pass this e-mail along to Cathy Mazzola for me, as I met her briefly and we discussed this bill.

Thanks.

Sincerely,

Bess

Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)

From: Janet Chaize [JanetC@abwrochester.org]
Sent: Friday, April 27, 2007 4:36 PM
To: Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)
Subject: RE: Domestic Violence Bill A6060

Today we met with Susan John.
She said the "fear of gay rights" that some Republicans have had should no longer be a factor
If I understood her correctly, the State senate and house recently passed the "sexual orientation non-discrimination bill"
Since they have passed this bill the way is clear.
Because someone could now sue for discrimination if they don't allow expanded access to Family Court.
Since sexual orientation can no longer legally be discriminated against, Family Court, as is, discriminates.

The Assembly will pass Expanded Access. Assemblywoman Weinstein is hopeful that the Governor will take it on as a program bill, so we should all push the governor to do this.
Good luck!

Janet Chaize, MS, LMHC
Transitional Support Services Program Coordinator
Alternatives for Battered Women
P.O. Box 39601
Rochester, NY 14604
585-232-5200, Ext. 232
janetc@abwrochester.org

From: Watts, Bess (ETS: Library) [mailto:bwatts@monroecc.edu]
Sent: Thursday, April 26, 2007 3:41 PM
To: Janet Chaize
Subject: RE: Domestic Violence Bill A6060

Do you know Harry Bronson? He has a lot of connections in Albany and may know of someone on the senate side that could sponsor this bill – would you like me to contact him and ask?

What political reason would people have not to sponsor this bill? I am so naïve when it comes to politics – it is not what you know, but who you know. Lobbyists earn their money, but I hate the system....

Bess

From: Janet Chaize [mailto:JanetC@abwrochester.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 26, 2007 3:23 PM
To: Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)
Subject: RE: Domestic Violence Bill A6060

I just sent you an e-mail with a lot of information, but may have more to the point of what you are saying in printed form.
I've also attached the most recent update from New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence with the Bill numbers, etc..
Note that Expanded Access Bill **Needs a State Senate Sponsor!**
For the most up to date information on the bill, go to:

http://assembly.state.ny.us/
Go to legislative bills and do a search for Domestic Violence Bills.

Janet Chaize, MS, LMHC
Transitional Support Services Program Coordinator
Alternatives for Battered Women
P.O. Box 39601
Rochester, NY 14604
585-232-5200, Ext. 232
janetc@abwrochester.org

From: Watts, Bess (ETS: Library) [mailto:bwatts@monroecc.edu]
Sent: Thursday, April 26, 2007 10:00 AM
To: Janet Chaize
Subject: Domestic Violence Bill A6060

Dear Janet,

I was referred to you as someone who is knowledgeable about domestic violence issues involving gays and lesbians. My name is Bess and my partner Anne and I are very active in raising awareness on issues related to equity for gay and lesbian couples. I hope you don't mind me contacting you with a couple of questions to clarify some questions in my mind about access to family courts for the GLBT community and domestic violence. It is my understanding that gay and lesbian couples do not have access to family courts, only criminal courts in order to get an order of protection. Could you illustrate for me the problems and situations that we would encounter because of this scenario?

In addition, how would it help agencies if gays and lesbians were to have access to family courts?

I am asking these questions for a few reasons – Anne and I are going to Albany on May 1st to talk with our legislators and wanted to put in a plug for Bill A6060 – which expands the definition and would include gays and lesbians? Is that correct? In addition, I speak often on issues such as marriage equality, domestic partner benefits and gay rights and this would add to my knowledge base.

Any advice, comments, or explanations would be helpful as I have never needed (thankfully!) to take advantage of these services. So for me this is awareness 101…

Thank you so much for taking the time to educate me on these matters. I am also on the board of Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church and we often support ABW – a wonderful organization!

Sincerely,

Bess Watts
3 Rossmore Street
Rochester NY 14606

(585) 292-2318
bwatts@monroecc.edu

Carl Sandburg was once asked what he thought was the ugliest word in the English language. He thought for a minute and replied, "Exclusion."

Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)

From: Michelle Wescott (RIT Student) [mlw6836@rit.edu]
Sent: Friday, April 27, 2007 10:39 AM
To: Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)
Subject: speech
Attachments: TBTN speech.doc

Okay, I'm ready. Here's a copy. I'm excited & passionate. I'd forgotten how much I love speaking and writing about violence against women. Bringing it to people's attention has always been a passion of mine & this opportunity has reminded me of that. Did I ever tell you that I have a degree in Women's Studies and as my thesis I wrote a book on violence against women from the perspective of the abused speaking through poetry. This brings all that passion back, so thank you for being busy tonight and giving me this opportunity.

Love you & God bless,
Michelle

Domestic violence is a human rights issue and, as women are the highest reported victims, it is a women's rights issue. Well, as Sojourner Truth said, "Ain't I a woman?" I ask that as a Black woman because women of color are routinely discriminated against by law enforcement and the court system in cases of domestic violence. But I especially ask that as a lesbian because the protections afforded heterosexual victims of domestic violence are denied to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender victims of the same kind of violence.

LGBT victims of domestic violence are denied the right to protection from their victimizers by the legal system in New York and many other states. New York provides orders of protection to victims who are married to, share a child with, or are related by blood to their abusers. The abused individual must only file a complaint with the police and express a fear for her safety in a closed and sealed Family court setting. Since it is not legal for LGBT people to marry their same-sex partners, in order for an LGBT victim to obtain an order of protection, she or he must go through the open and public criminal courts. She or he must have also sustained a felony level assault. So, imagine this: a lesbian relationship where one partner is routinely verbally threatening and intimidating, withholding support, food, access to transportation, etc – she gets no protection under law. Escalation to a few slaps, sexual intimidation or assault, a push or two, a little help down the stairs that results in her in a heap at the bottom, but with no broken bones – she gets no protection. Generally assault without a weapon is a misdemeanor, not the felony level assault that would qualify an LGBT victim to obtain an order of protection and sexual assault is not currently considered domestic violence under the law.

This is not just a gay issue. In fact, heterosexual women in abusive relationships who are not married to, do not share a child with and are not related by blood to their abuser are also denied protection under law and New York is the only state in this country that denies this access to people who share a household. We

must talk to our congresspersons, governors, senators, and let them know that we demand new legislation, such as bill A6060, which will expand the definition of domestic violence. Regardless of the sexual identity and marital status of the victim, all deserve equal protection against violence, all deserve the right to a safe and happy home. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." We need to demand the correction of this injustice, demand equal protections under law for all people regardless of race, color, creed, gender or sexual or gender identity, because until all have rights we are all vulnerable.

Gmail by Google

Bess Watts <besswhat@gmail.com>

Thank you

1 message

Bess Watts <besswhat@gmail.com> Thu, Jun 26, 2008 at 10:37 AM
To: robach@senate.state.ny.us, alesi@senate.state.ny.us, nozzolio@senate.state.ny.us, maziarz@senate.state.ny.us, bruno@senate.state.ny.us

Dear Senators,

I want to thank you for moving the bill to the floor and passing the family access bill. This bill will be a major help for those couples who are not married and need protection. Your actions have literally saved lives.

Sincerely,

Bess Watts
3 Rossmore St
Rochester NY 14606

Gmail by Google

Bess Watts <besswhat@gmail.com>

FW: Family Access Bill A6060

5 messages

Privitere, Tom <TPrivitere@pef.org> Thu, May 29, 2008 at 2:38 PM
To: cmazzotta@earthlink.net
Cc: Bess Watts <besswhat@gmail.com>

Cathy: Forwarding this at Bess Watts' request.

Better late than never.

TP

From: Watts, Bess (ETS: Library) [mailto:bwatts@monroecc.edu]
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2008 3:54 PM
To: Privitere, Tom
Subject: FW: Family Access Bill A6060

Tom,

On another note, can you check with Cathy Mazzotta in regards to the following e-mail that I sent to Janet? I'm not sure if Janet is still working at ABW, as I have not received a response, or could you forward this e-mail to Cathy – I want to make sure Aron and Jim know everything about this bill so they can help it see the light of day.

Thanks,

Bess

From: Watts, Bess (ETS: Library)
Sent: Friday, May 09, 2008 8:39 AM
To: 'Janet Chaize'
Cc: Aron Reina
Subject: Family Access Bill A6060

Hi Janet,

I don't know if you remember me but I contacted you last year in regards to A6060. Since that time I have tried to educate those I meet and various politicians that I have encountered.

The reason I am e-mailing you is that last night, in my capacity as a delegate to the Rochester Labor Council and President of Pride at Work, I asked Jim Bertolone, President of the Rochester and Genesee Valley AFL-CIO to ask Senator Winner and Senator Robach, as well as others, to support the passage of this bill. In my explanation of the bill I told the executive board that ABW has wanted this bill passed for years and that we are the only state in the Union that does not allow access to Family Court for unmarried couples. In order to get a restraining order, individuals would be charged with a felony and the process would go through criminal court and be a matter of public record, whereas family court is confidential. The bill has passed the Assembly by a unanimous vote (145/00) and that Senator Winner is the only Senate sponsor. http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?bn=A06060

What I need from you is confirmation that what I said is indeed true and if you have any information that we should know in our capacity to help get this bill through. Being that it is an election year, it is possible that we could help in advocating for this very important bill as it could very well save lives. In addition, we have union members who live in unmarried households who could possibly benefit from this bill.

I have copied in Aron Reina, who is Mr. Bertolone's right hand man, so he can be aware of your response and be educated on this topic.

I hope you are doing well and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Bess Watts, VP#3
CSEA Local 828, Unit 7402
Monroe Community College
(585) 292-2318
bwatts@monroecc.edu

Prejudice tolerated is intolerance encouraged. Harvey Fierstein

---

Bess Watts <besswhat@gmail.com> Thu, May 29, 2008 at 2:48 PM
To: "Privitere, Tom" <TPrivitere@pef.org>
Cc: cmazzotta@earthlink.net

Tom, you are soooo late - Cathy and I are old friends now, we go way back... :-)

Hugs.

Bess

[Quoted text hidden]

Cathy Mazzotta <cmazzotta@earthlink.net> Thu, May 29, 2008 at 10:11 PM
Reply-To: cmazzotta@earthlink.net
To: Bess Watts <besswhat@gmail.com>, "Privitere, Tom" <TPrivitere@pef.org>

Yo Tom,

That's right, Bess is on of my dogs.

We's tight.

Love ya

Cathy

From: Bess Watts [mailto:besswhat@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2008 2:49 PM
To: Privitere, Tom
Cc: cmazzotta@earthlink.net
Subject: Re: FW: Family Access Bill A6060

[Quoted text hidden]

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG.
Version: 8.0.100 / Virus Database: 269.24.3/1472 - Release Date: 5/29/2008 7:27 AM

Privitere, Tom <TPrivitere@pef.org> Fri, May 30, 2008 at 4:53 PM
To: cmazzotta@earthlink.net, Bess Watts <besswhat@gmail.com>

Oh, so now the gay guy gets "shut out"? I see how this works. The yah yah sistahhood is in full swing. Well Bess may be one of your dogs, but she's MY union leader....take that you not for profit Diva.

Don't make me come over there with an "organizing" campaign.

Speaking of "dogs" how is that beautiful nephew of mine?

From: Cathy Mazzotta [mailto:cmazzotta@earthlink.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2008 10:11 PM
To: 'Bess Watts'; Privitere, Tom
Subject: RE: FW: Family Access Bill A6060

[Quoted text hidden]

Cathy Mazzotta <cmazzotta@earthlink.net> Sun, Jun 1, 2008 at 10:07 AM
Reply-To: cmazzotta@earthlink.net
To: "Privitere, Tom" <TPrivitere@pef.org>, Bess Watts <besswhat@gmail.com>

Yo Tom,

You are so cute when you get jealous☺

Your nephew is doing great. He went on a diet and looks fabulous. I can't exactly say the same.

And of course you guys would have no reason to come into my shop, as I am union and a non-union shop can be.

Love you

Cathy

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG.
Version: 8.0.100 / Virus Database: 269.24.4/1476 - Release Date: 5/31/2008 12:25 PM

Gmail by Google

Bess Watts <besswhat@gmail.com>

A photo to go with PAW Article

1 message

Bess Watts <besswhat@gmail.com> Mon, Jun 16, 2008 at 10:58 AM
To: Susan Jordan <susanj@gagv.us>, Susan Jordan <susanj@gayalliance.org>

Hi Susan,

Here is a picture of myself and Senator Bruno discussing the Family Access bill.

Thanks,

Bess

Bess&Bruno.jpg
30K

Gmail by Google

Bess Watts <besswhat@gmail.com>

FW: NYS Legislature passes Family Court bill

13 messages

Prairie Wells <pwells@prideagenda.org> Tue, Jun 24, 2008 at 8:57 PM
To: Bess Watts <besswhat@gmail.com>
Cc: Mary E Sullivan <mary.sullivan@cseainc.org>

Hi Bess,

On the issue of the Family Access Bill, here's the press release we sent out today, there will be more to come soon. Thank you for your leadership on this very important issue, it is my understanding that your meeting in Rochester with the AFL-CIO was *helpful*--your work and the work of many others is bearing fruit--keep up the good work!

In Unity,

Prairie R. Wells

Field Director, Empire State Pride Agenda

One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Ave., Suite 805

Albany, New York 12260

518.472.3330 xt 303

518.472.3334 fax

www.prideagenda.org

From: Joshua Meltzer
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2008 6:16 PM
To: Staff
Subject: NYS Legislature passes Family Court bill

We just send out this release. More to come tomorrow on this exciting victory!

http://www.prideagenda.org/tabid/304/default.aspx?c=356

Josh Meltzer

Director of Communications

Empire State Pride Agenda

16 West 22nd Street

New York, NY 10010

(212) 627-0305

http://prideagenda.blogspot.com

www.prideagenda.org

Bess Watts <besswhat@gmail.com> Tue, Jun 24, 2008 at 9:22 PM
To: Prairie Wells <pwells@prideagenda.org>

Hi Sister,

Great press release and thank you for your support!

A lot of hands were involved in this bill and I'm thrilled that Pride at Work was helpful in getting this long overdue bill passed ---- Keep up the great work, it's important to be able to stand on a strong foundation to speak out and ESPA is always there to help lead the way.

It's a great day -

In Solidarity,

Bess
[Quoted text hidden]

Bess Watts <besswhat@gmail.com> Tue, Jun 24, 2008 at 9:28 PM
Bcc: dmohr@monroecc.edu, rmckechney@monroecc.edu, smteaches@frontiernet.net, Anne Tischer <atischer@frontiernet.net>, Barbara Gorski <bjgorski@rochester.rr.com>, Carol Trapasso <c_trapasso@yahoo.com>, "Carter, Ralph C" <ralph.carter@xerox.com>, Chris Stewart <cstewart@monroecounty.gov>, Christine Wolff <christine.wolff@dfa.state.ny.us>, Christopher Hinesley <ChristopherH@gagv.us>, Cris Zaffuto <Crisz62@aol.com>, Cyril <cyril.waugh@dfa.state.ny.us>, Deb Lee <deb.lee@cseainc.org>, Ginny <ginny81381PAC@yahoo.com>, Jim Mulcahy <mulcahyj@citlink.net>, John Galanti <jgalanti@rochester.rr.com>, John Vasco <fswpresident@aol.com>, Jose Ortiz <jose.ortiz@dfa.state.ny.us>, Linda Donahue <lhd4@cornell.edu>, Margery <msaunder@brockport.edu>, Michelle Alaimo <michelle.alaimo@dfa.state.ny.us>, Michelle Bartholomay <Michelle.Bartholomay@dfa.state.ny.us>, Nina <neenabeena61@yahoo.com>, Ove Overmyer <oveovermyer@yahoo.com>, Paula Delapa <paula.delapa@dfa.state.ny.us>, "Privitere, Tom" <TPrivitere@pef.org>, Ralph Carter <rcarter2@rochester.rr.com>, "RLCAFLCIO@aol.com" <RLCAFLCIO@aol.com>, Rosemary Rivera <Rosemary.Rivera@hepny.org>, Sandra Telep <Stelep@aflcio.org>, "Schafer, Martin (DFA2-A26)" <martin.schafer@dfa.state.ny.us>, Scott M Fearing <Scott@scottfearing.com>, Sue Goodrich <scgoodrich@yahoo.com>, tjudith johnson <TJudithJohnson@yahoo.com>, "Wolff, Patricia (Student Services Center - DCC)" <pwolff@monroecc.edu>

A VICTORY - the Family Access bill has passed the senate!! The Governor is expected to sign the bill ASAP.
[Quoted text hidden]

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postmaster@nysemail.state.ny.us <postmaster@nysemail.state.ny.us> Tue, Jun 24, 2008 at 9:28 PM
To: besswhat@gmail.com

This is an automatically generated Delivery Status Notification.

Delivery to the following recipients failed.

Paula.Delapa@dfa.state.ny.us

Final-Recipient: rfc822;Paula.Delapa@dfa.state.ny.us
Action: failed
Status: 5.7.1
X-Display-Name: DeLapa, Paula (DFA2-A26)

-------- Forwarded message ---------
From: "Bess Watts" <besswhat@gmail.com>
To: undisclosed-recipients:;
Cc:
Date: Tue, 24 Jun 2008 21:28:41 -0400
Subject: FW: NYS Legislature passes Family Court bill
A VICTORY - the Family Access bill has passed the senate!! The Governor is expected to sign the bill ASAP.

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Prairie Wells <pwells@prideagenda.org>
Date: Tue, Jun 24, 2008 at 8:57 PM
Subject: FW: NYS Legislature passes Family Court bill
To: Bess Watts <besswhat@gmail.com>
Cc: Mary E Sullivan <mary.sullivan@cseainc.org>

Hi Bess,

On the issue of the Family Access Bill, here's the press release we sent out today, there will be more to come soon. Thank you for your leadership on this very important issue, it is my understanding that your meeting in Rochester with the AFL-CIO was *helpful*--your work and the work of many others is bearing fruit--keep up the good work!

In Unity,

Prairie R. Wells

Field Director, Empire State Pride Agenda

One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Ave., Suite 805

Albany, New York 12260

518.472.3330 xt 303

518.472.3334 fax

www.prideagenda.org

From: Joshua Meltzer
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2008 6:16 PM
To: Staff
Subject: NYS Legislature passes Family Court bill

We just send out this release. More to come tomorrow on this exciting victory!

http://www.prideagenda.org/tabid/304/default.aspx?c=356

Josh Meltzer

Director of Communications

Empire State Pride Agenda

16 West 22nd Street

New York, NY 10010

(212) 627-0305

http://prideagenda.blogspot.com

www.prideagenda.org

Ove Overmyer <oveovermyer@yahoo.com> Tue, Jun 24, 2008 at 9:47 PM
Reply-To: oveovermyer@yahoo.com
To: Bess Watts <besswhat@gmail.com>

I'm so proud of you I could scream!

-Ove

--- On **Tue, 6/24/08, Bess Watts <*besswhat@gmail.com*>** wrote:

> From: Bess Watts <besswhat@gmail.com>
> Subject: FW: NYS Legislature passes Family Court bill
> To:
> Date: Tuesday, June 24, 2008, 9:28 PM
> [Quoted text hidden]

Bess Watts <besswhat@gmail.com> Wed, Jun 25, 2008 at 6:38 AM
To: oveovermyer@yahoo.com

You're making me blush... coming from you means a lot!
[Quoted text hidden]

Mohr, Deborah (ETS: Library) <dmohr@monroecc.edu> Wed, Jun 25, 2008 at 8:15 AM
To: Bess Watts <besswhat@gmail.com>

Congratulations!!!!!
Deb M.
[Quoted text hidden]

crisz62@aol.com <crisz62@aol.com> Wed, Jun 25, 2008 at 11:54 AM
To: besswhat@gmail.com

How cool is that!!!!!!!
[Quoted text hidden]

Get the Moviefone Toolbar. Showtimes, theaters, movie news, & more!

Bess Watts <besswhat@gmail.com> Wed, Jun 25, 2008 at 12:07 PM
To: "crisz62@aol.com" <crisz62@aol.com>

Way cool!!!!

On another matter I'm sending my letter to Bernie to ask to be a State Delegate, what do you think (see attached)?
[Quoted text hidden]

State Delegate Request.doc
21K

crisz62@aol.com <crisz62@aol.com> Wed, Jun 25, 2008 at 12:44 PM
To: besswhat@gmail.com

I would mail it to her in the U.S. To the union office. This way Barb date stamps it and there is a copy of it.

-----Original Message-----
From: Bess Watts <besswhat@gmail.com>
[Quoted text hidden]

Bess Watts <besswhat@gmail.com> Wed, Jun 25, 2008 at 1:04 PM
To: "crisz62@aol.com" <crisz62@aol.com>

Will do. Thanks
[Quoted text hidden]

Sue Goodrich <scgoodrich@yahoo.com> Wed, Jun 25, 2008 at 6:20 PM

Reply-To: scgoodrich@yahoo.com
To: Bess Watts <besswhat@gmail.com>

BESS YOU ARE AWESOME!!!!!!

--- On **Tue, 6/24/08, Bess Watts <*besswhat@gmail.com*>** wrote:

> From: Bess Watts <besswhat@gmail.com>
> Subject: FW: NYS Legislature passes Family Court bill
> To:
> Date: Tuesday, June 24, 2008, 9:28 PM
>
> [Quoted text hidden]

Bess Watts <besswhat@gmail.com> Thu, Jun 26, 2008 at 9:10 AM
To: scgoodrich@yahoo.com

I'm not awesome, I have a great team in PRIDE AT WORK and you are part of it!!

So, YOU ARE AWESOME!!!

:-)

[Quoted text hidden]